

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 28 September 1948

SUBJECT Arrest of Protestant Pastors

CONFIDENTIAL NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1A

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE OF [REDACTED]

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 letter of 16 October 1975 from the  
 Director of Central Intelligence to the  
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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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- On 24 July 1948 the homes of the following Protestant pastors were searched by agents of the militia and the pastors themselves arrested:
  - Rev. Yanko Nikolov Ivanov, Superintendent of the Methodist Church;
  - Rev. Nikola Michailov of the local Baptist Church;
  - Rev. Emanuel Manolov of the Pentecost Church;
  - Rev. Harlan Popov of the Pentecost Church;
  - Rev. George Tchernev of the Pentecost Church;
  - Rev. Ivan Zarev of the Pentecost Church;
  - Rev. Dimitar Mathev of the Free Protestant Church.
- Rev. Ziaphov of the Congregational Church made a statement before local authorities that his church is not supported in any way by assistance from the United States; he was not taken into custody.
- All these ministers were accused of espionage and "currency irregularities", which charge consisted of accusing the Bulgarian clergymen of permitting funds to be raised in American congregations but keeping the funds on deposit in the United States.
- Methodist Church members advise that local Communists will take over the church property for use as a Fatherland Front headquarters. Allegedly, the church building is actually American property and is owned by the Methodist Board, 155th Avenue, New York.

Document No. 5

NO CHANGE in Class.

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